



Pelosi and Democratic leaders try to guide their party through Biden uproar

By LISA MASCARO

AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nancy Pelosi's phone lit up the night of President Joe Biden's debate performance with a question that has yet to be fully resolved: Now what? Calls kept coming the morning after Biden's agonizing face-off against Republican Donald Trump, and anxious lawmakers surrounded Pelosi later on the House floor. Two weeks on, the situation shows no signs of letting up. The uproar that has shaken the 2024 election, and siphoned attention away from Trump and his MAGA agenda, leaves Democrats at a painful standstill, at odds over whether to stick with Biden as their presumptive nominee or press on with the once-unthinkable option of trying to persuade the president to end his reelection campaign.

Pelosi as the former House speaker, along with Rep. Jim Clyburn, a veteran leader of the Congressional Black Caucus, are playing oversized roles as generational allies of the 81-year-old president but also trusted voices from Capitol Hill who can bring



Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., left, greets President Joe Biden at the Columbia Metro Airport, in West Columbia, S.C., Jan. 27, 2024.

Associated Press

frank concerns to Biden. Their work, in public and private, is giving space to the current congressional leadership headed by House Leader Hakeem Jeffries and Sen-

ate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer to navigate the Biden question and the party's political future. Watching in disbelief at what the past weeks have brought,

Democrats fear not only the White House, but control of the House and Senate in Congress, could be wiped out this November, leaving them essentially powerless to con-

front Trump and the far-right Project 2025 agenda, which they warn is a dire threat to American democracy.

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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

SUNDAY:	MONDAY:	TUESDAY:	WEDNESDAY:	THURSDAY:	FRIDAY:	SATURDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	EDDIE KROON SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm KARAOKE 9:00 - 11:00pm	MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	RICKY THOMAS GUITARIST 7:00 - 9:00pm	EDDIE KROON SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm

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Pelosi and Democratic leaders try to guide their party through Biden uproar

Continued from Front

Democrats believe they have a solid message to bring to voters, but worry that Biden, despite all he has done to bring their policy victories, may not be the best messenger to deliver it.

Biden insists he's staying in the race to "finish this job" because so much is at stake, and his team is working steadily to move on from the debilitating debate and return the political gaze back to Trump, as Republicans prepare for their nominating convention next week in Milwaukee.

After a more satisfactory performance by Biden in a much-anticipated press conference Thursday evening, the president hit the campaign trail to battleground Michigan and engaged Friday in private talks with lawmakers, including members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. Biden's advisers understand there is more to be done to shore up support, and additional public events and private outreach are scheduled.

But the mood on Capitol Hill is not at all settled. Several more Democrats spoke out publicly Friday that Biden should step aside from the race — including Rep. Mike Levin of California who in a remarkable moment told Biden directly that he should bow out during the call with members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, according to people familiar with



Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., the speaker emerita, left, arrives at the Democratic National Headquarters with other Democratic members of the House of Representatives to discuss the future of President Biden running for the presidency, Tuesday, July 9, 2024 in Washington.

Associated Press

the situation and granted anonymity to discuss it Levin said in a statement later, "The time has come for President Biden to pass the torch."

The congressman warned that Democrats "must prevail against the incalculable threat Donald Trump poses to the American institutions of freedom and democracy." He said Trump "actively seeks a bleak authoritarianism and the overthrow of the values which have guided" the country for nearly 250 years. While the floodgate of dissent that was expected from House Democrats did not open after Biden delivered

what for many was a more than competent performance in his Thursday evening news conference, it also did not slam shut.

All told, almost 20 House Democrats are calling on Biden to bow out, a mix of younger and older lawmakers, those in some of the most competitive districts for reelection but also senior lawmakers who worry about the party's ability to win in fall. One Democratic senator has joined the chorus, so far.

The Democratic leaders on Capitol Hill are confronting a situation like no other, testing a new era of leadership, helmed by Schumer and

Jeffries, both New Yorkers, who are saying little publicly other than that they stand with Biden as they balance the competing views of their caucuses.

Jeffries, who is in line to become House speaker if Democrats win the majority in November, met privately with Biden Thursday night at the White House, and "expressed the full breadth of insight, heartfelt perspectives and conclusions about the path forward that the caucus has shared in our recent time together."

In a letter to colleagues, he said House Democrats have had an "extensive discussion"

about the country's future. And the conversation has been, as he said earlier in the week, "candid, clear-eyed and comprehensive."

Schumer, with a slim Senate majority at stake this election, is also encouraging senators to personally dial up the president and his team to share their views, according to a person familiar with the situation and granted anonymity to discuss it.

In his own conversations, including with senators and donors, Schumer has not foreclosed on any options. The Senate leader invited Biden's team to meet privately with Senate Democrats this week in a session that was heated at times with strong questions and opinions, but little assurances for senators from the president's staff about the path forward.

What is most telling from the Democratic leaders is that they are having these conversations at all: It lays bare the reality that Democrats have not closed the door on an alternative to Biden. The leaders are all being bombarded with advocates from all sides, on and off the Hill, pressing them to take action.

Pelosi, because of her stature as the party's formidable former speaker, and Clyburn as the leader who helped deliver the presidency for Biden in 2020, have particular clout, among those who could bring their influence to bear on the president. □



A woman rides a bike through a homeless encampment in Chicago on Friday, July 12, 2024.

Associated Press

By SCOTT BAUER

Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Homeless people who have been living in one of Chicago's largest

and most visible encampments will be relocated to a shelter by next week so the area will be emptied before the Democratic National

Chicago removing homeless encampment ahead of Democratic National Convention

Convention in August, a city official said Friday.

The encampment is along Interstate 90 just southwest of the city center, an area that's a main thoroughfare between the two sites where the Democratic convention will be held starting Aug. 19. The encampment will be emptied and permanently roped off on Wednesday, Chicago Department of Family and Support Services Commissioner Brandie Knazze said Friday.

The 29 people staying there were told in June, Knazze said. As of Friday, only six remained, she said. They were being relocated to a city-run shelter in a former hotel that also once housed Ditka's restaurant. It was converted into a homeless shelter last year.

"This is really a part of our unsheltered strategy," Knazze said. "Our goal is to be thoughtful, be trauma informed and help people along their journey."

Knazze said that the city was moving the people now because they assumed federal authorities would require them to do it later for security reasons.

"We don't want to wait and be told the week before or the week of," she said. "This is really about getting people inside."

After the convention, the city will be working with the relocated people to find them housing or other shelter placement, Knazze said. □

More than 6 in 10 U.S. adults support protecting access to IVF, AP-NORC poll finds

By COLLEEN LONG and AMELIA THOMSON-DEVEAUX

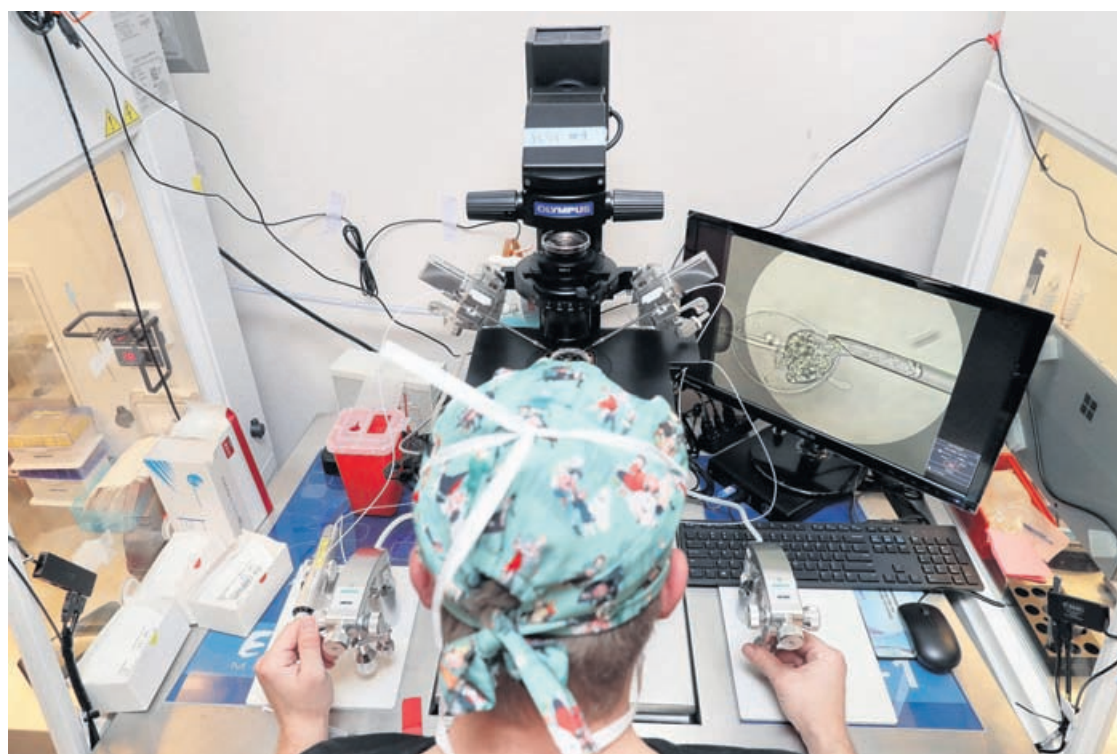
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Relatively few Americans fully endorse the idea that a fertilized egg should have the same rights as a pregnant woman. But a significant share say it describes their views at least somewhat well, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

The new survey comes as questions grow around reproductive health access in the continued fallout from the decision by the Supreme Court to end federal abortion protections. The poll found that a solid majority of Americans oppose a federal abortion ban as a rising number support access to abortions for any reason.

But anti-abortion advocates are increasingly pushing for broader measures that would give rights and protections to embryos and fetuses, which could have massive implications for fertility treatments and other areas of health care.

The poll suggests that when it comes to more nuanced questions about issues like in vitro fertilization, or IVF which may be affected by the restrictive climate in



Lab staff use a microscope stand and articulated hand controls to extract cells from 1-7 day old embryos, shown on the monitor at right, that are then checked for viability at the Aspire Houston Fertility Institute in vitro fertilization lab Feb. 27, 2024, in Houston.

Associated Press

some states, even though they were not previously considered as part of "abortion" there is general support for reproductive health protections. But the poll also shows some uncertainty, as Americans are faced with situations that would not have arisen before *Roe v. Wade* was overturned.

According to the poll, about 6 in 10 U.S. adults support protecting access to IVF, a type of fertility treatment where eggs are combined

with sperm outside the body in a lab to form an embryo. Views on banning the destruction of embryos created through IVF are less developed, with 4 in 10 adults expressing a neutral opinion. "I believe that it's a woman's right to determine what she wants to do with her pregnancy, and she should be cared for. There should be no question about that," said John Evangelista, 73.

"And IVF, I mean, for years, it's saved a lot of people

grief because they want to have a child. Why would you want to limit this for people?"

Earlier this year, Alabama's largest hospital paused in vitro fertilization treatments, following a court ruling that said frozen embryos are the legal equivalent of children. Not long after, the governor signed legislation shielding doctors from potential legal liability in order to restart procedures in the state.

But the political damage

was done. Democrats routinely cite IVF concerns as part of a larger problem where women in some states are getting worse medical care since the fall of *Roe*. They link delayed IVF care to cases in states with abortion restrictions, where women must wait until they are very sick in order to get care. Democrats say these issues show how GOP efforts to overturn *Roe* have profoundly affected all facets of reproductive care.

On the other hand, protections for IVF are supported by Americans across the political spectrum: About three-quarters of Democrats and 56% of Republicans favor preserving access to IVF, while about 4 in 10 independents are in favor and just under half, 46%, neither favor nor oppose protecting access. For some, their views have been shaped by personal experience with the procedure.

"I'm about to go through IVF right now, and you're trying to get as many embryos as you can so you can have more chances at having one live birth, or more than that, if you're lucky," said Alexa Voloschenko, 30. "I just don't want people to be having more trouble to access IVF; it's already hard enough." □

Melania Trump will attend the Republican convention in a rare political appearance, AP sources say

By JILL COLVIN and MICHELLE L. PRICE

Associated press

NEW YORK (AP) — Former first lady Melania Trump will attend the Republican National Convention next week in Milwaukee, according to two people familiar with her plans who spoke Friday on condition of anonymity before full details were released.

Melania Trump has largely refrained from public appearances, noticeably missing key moments such as former President Donald Trump's Super Tuesday victory party and his 78th birth-

day party last month. She also did not accompany the presumptive Republican presidential nominee on any of the days of his more than monthlong hush money trial in New York.

Her presence at the convention where her husband will be officially nominated as the Republican candidate will be a boost for the party as it tries to present a united front compared to the crisis the Democratic party faces as some are calling for President Joe Biden to withdraw his re-election bid following his debate performance.

Melania Trump's plans have not been formally announced, and it is not yet clear whether she will deliver a speech or have any role in the proceedings.

The news was first reported by CNN.

Her office did not immediately respond to a request for comment. After she had been largely absent from the campaign trail earlier this year, reporters asked the former first lady about her plans. Her response: "Stay tuned."

The few times she has been seen have been when she and Trump voted in

Florida's primary, at a couple of fundraisers and

at their son's high school graduation. □



Former first lady Melania Trump leaves after voting in the Florida primary election in Palm Beach, Fla., March 19, 2024.

Associated Press

Judge ends Rudy Giuliani bankruptcy case, says he flouted the process with his lack of transparency

By **MICHAEL R. SISK**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A judge threw out Rudy Giuliani's bankruptcy case on Friday, slamming the former New York City mayor as a "recalcitrant debtor" who thumbed his nose at the process while seeking to shield himself from a \$148 million defamation judgment and other debts.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Sean Lane criticized Giuliani for repeated "uncooperative conduct," self-dealing, and a lack of transparency. The judge cited failures to comply with court orders, failure to disclose sources of income, and his apparent unwillingness to hire an accountant to go over his books.

"Such a failure is a clear red flag," Lane wrote.

Dismissing the case ends his pursuit of bankruptcy protection, but it doesn't absolve him of his debts. His creditors can now pursue other legal remedies to recoup at least some of the money they're owed, such as getting a court order to seize his apartments and other assets.

Lane indicated at a hearing Wednesday that he would probably dismiss the case.



Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani talks to reporters as he leaves the federal courthouse in Washington, Dec. 11, 2023.

Associated Press

Giuliani's lawyer had floated other options to keep the case alive, but agreed ultimately that dismissing it was the best way forward. The dismissal includes a 12-month ban on Giuliani filing again for bankruptcy protection.

"Transparency into Mr. Giuliani's finances has proven to be an elusive goal," Lane wrote, and he "sees no evidence that this will change." A message seeking com-

ment was left with Giuliani's lawyer and spokesperson. Giuliani is also now free to pursue an appeal of the defamation verdict, which arose from his efforts to overturn Republican Donald Trump's 2020 presidential election loss. Giuliani, a longtime Trump ally, filed for bankruptcy last December just days after the eye-popping damages award to former Georgia election workers Ruby Freeman and

Wandrea "Shaye" Moss. The bankruptcy filing froze collection of the debt.

A lawyer for Freeman and Moss accused Giuliani at Wednesday's hearing of using bankruptcy as a "bad-faith litigation tactic" and a "pause button on his woes," and urged Lane to dismiss it so they could pursue the damages they were awarded.

The other people and entities to whom Giuliani owes

money wanted to keep the bankruptcy case going with a court-appointed trustee taking control of Giuliani's assets.

Earlier this month, Giuliani requested the case be converted to a Chapter 7 liquidation in which an appointed trustee would sell off assets to help pay creditors. Giuliani's lawyer Gary Fischhoff reconsidered that idea at Wednesday's hearing and pushed to dismiss the case instead, noting that administrative fees related to liquidation would "consume if not 100%, a substantial portion of the assets."

Freeman and Moss can now bring their effort to collect on the award back to the court in Washington, D.C., where they won their lawsuit.

The women said Giuliani's targeting of them after Trump narrowly lost Georgia to Democrat Joe Biden led to death threats that made them fear for their lives.

The bankruptcy is one of a host of legal woes consuming Giuliani, the ex-federal prosecutor and 2008 Republican presidential candidate who was once heralded as "America's Mayor" for his calm and steady leadership after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. □

Gang used drugs, violence to commit robberies that led to four deaths, prosecutors say

By **BRUCE SHIPKOWSKI**
Associated Press

A group of gang members who trafficked drugs and guns and used dating web-

sites to connect with people interested in hiring prostitutes were responsible for a series of robberies that led to four deaths, federal prosecutors

said Friday. Dubbed the "fentanyl robbery gang," the group worked from New Hampshire to Virginia, according to Gerard Karam, the U.S. attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. He said the gang members and their associates would arrange to visit a victim's location with the intent to rob them of guns, cash, cellphones, identification documents, debit and credit cards, drugs and other items of value. The victims would be offered drugs, usually purported cocaine, but were not told the narcotics contained fentanyl, authorities said. If victims refused the drugs, the gang members and/or

their associates would forcibly administer them or surreptitiously introduce them into their bodies, Karam said.

This was done to incapacitate the victims so it was easier to steal from them. If a victim wasn't incapacitated, or not incapacitated quickly enough, the group would commit home invasion robberies where they would be let into the victim's home by other gang members or associates and then steal items of value at gunpoint or through other violent means, including threats and beatings.

The group is linked to three deaths in Pennsylvania in Berks and Luzerne counties and one in Portsmouth, New

Hampshire, and prosecutors said it is likely there are other victims.

Seven group members have been indicted on numerous charges, including kidnapping, aggravated identity theft, conspiracy to distribute drugs, distributing fentanyl resulting in death and serious bodily injury and weapons charges.

Some group members were affiliated with New York City gangs, Karam said.

The investigation involved several state, county and local law enforcement agencies in Pennsylvania and New Hampshire, as well as the FBI and the U.S. Marshal's Service in Scranton, Pennsylvania. □



Pennsylvania Middle District U.S. Attorney Gerard Karam speaks at a news conference, Friday, July 12, 2024, in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Associated Press

European Union says X's blue checks are deceptive 'dark patterns' that breach its social media laws

By **KELVIN CHAN**
AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — The European Union said Friday that blue checkmarks from Elon Musk's X are deceptive and that the online platform falls short on transparency and accountability requirements, the first charges against a tech company since the bloc's new social media regulations took effect.

The European Commission outlined the preliminary findings from its investigation into X, formerly known as Twitter, under the 27-nation bloc's Digital Services Act.

The rulebook, also known as the DSA, is a sweeping set of regulations that requires platforms to take more responsibility for protecting their European users and cleaning up harmful or illegal content and products on their sites, under threat of hefty fines.

Regulators took aim at X's blue checks, saying they constitute "dark patterns" that are not in line with in-



The Twitter logo is seen on the awning of the building that houses the Twitter office in New York, on Oct. 26, 2022.

dustry best practice and can be used by malicious actors to deceive users.

Before Musk's acquisition, the checkmarks mirrored verification badges common on social media and

were largely reserved for celebrities, politicians and other influential accounts. After Musk bought the site in 2022, it started issuing them to anyone who paid \$8 per month for one.

"Since anyone can subscribe to obtain such a 'verified' status' it negatively affects users' ability to make free and informed decisions about the authenticity of the accounts and the content

Associated Press

they interact with," the commission said.

The accusations, which also include blocking data access to researchers and shortcomings in its ad database, drew a combative response from Musk.

"The European Commission offered X an illegal secret deal: if we quietly censored speech without telling anyone, they would not fine us," he wrote on the site.

"The other platforms accepted that deal. X did not." He did not provide further details.

An email request for comment to X resulted in an automated response that said "Busy now, please check back later." Its main spokesman reportedly left the company in June.

"Back in the day, BlueChecks used to mean trustworthy sources of information," European Commissioner Thierry Breton said in a statement. "Now with X, our preliminary view is that they deceive users and infringe the DSA." □

Caribbean seeks help in fighting climate change after Hurricane Beryl devastates small islands

By **DÁNICA COTO**
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Caribbean officials on Friday demanded more access to funding and help in fighting climate change, weeks after Hurricane Beryl devastated the region.

The urgent request was made at an OAS meeting in Washington, D.C., where officials noted that the historic storm exposed the vulnerability of small islands. Beryl killed at least seven people in the Caribbean and razed nearly all infrastructure on some of the islands that make up Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

"(We) are on the front line," said Virginia Albert-Poyotte, the delegate for St. Lucia, who asked that climate financing be made more available and that financial institutions include special disaster clauses.

She and others noted that

small Caribbean islands often have rickety infrastructure and fragile economies dependent on tourism and fishing.

A resolution approved Friday by the OAS stated that previous hurricanes have led to higher insurance premiums, unemployment and poverty. It called for the immediate operation of a loss and damage fund agreed upon at previous U.N. climate change conferences to help vulnerable countries rebuild and also prepare for future storms.

The resolution also requested that financial and development institutions release funds to small nations affected by disasters on a concessionary basis, "free from onerous conditions," and to "cancel, defer or reschedule debt repayments." OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro noted that funds flowing toward islands affected by

Beryl are insufficient, with the U.N. and Caribbean leaders requesting at least \$9 million in assistance.

He warned that the severity of natural disasters is increasing, with Beryl as proof.

"This is yet another indication that the climate crisis is worsening," he said.

Chef Neymour, the Bahamian delegate, criticized how top greenhouse gas emitters worldwide have remained "silent and non-committal" about their responsibilities, noting that the Caribbean is one of the regions most affected by climate change and among those that contribute least to it.

"Nations like my own have had to go at it alone," he said, noting that Hurricane Dorian pummeled the Bahamas in 2019 for two days as a Category 5 storm. "Lives are at stake."

Officials talked about the

need to invest in early warning systems and resilient infrastructure, noting that the Atlantic hurricane season has just started.

Delegate Lynn Young of Belize said governments also must prioritize talks about climate financing.

"Hurricane Beryl underscores an urgent reality," he said. "The crisis is here."

Scientists are debating what exactly climate change does to hurricanes, but they agree it makes storms more likely to rapidly intensify.

Hurricane Beryl was the first-ever Category 4 storm to form in the Atlantic in June, going from an unnamed depression to a Category 4 in just 48 hours. □



A fisherman looks at fishing vessels damaged by Hurricane Beryl at the Bridgetown Fisheries in Barbados, Monday, July 1, 2024.

Associated Press

Why Nicolás Maduro appears 13 times on the ballot for Venezuela's presidential election

By **JORGE RUEDA**

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela

(AP) — His smile is confident, his hair well-combed and his eyes are squinting slightly: The first candidate you'll likely see on the ballot in Venezuela's upcoming presidential election is Nicolás Maduro, the incumbent seeking reelection. Unlike some of his nine challengers, Maduro shows up not once or twice, but a whopping 13 times on the ballot and he's certain to catch the voters' attention. Each time, it's for one of the several political groups he is representing in the highly anticipated July 28 presidential election. Maduro takes up the entire first of the ballot's four rows while the rest of the candidates' photos are sprinkled here and there, including that of former diplomat Edmundo González Urrutia, the only contender with real chances of denying the president a third term. Still, the sheer number of Maduro's images appearing on the ballot belies the seriousness of the moment. Venezuela faces its toughest electoral test in decades. The outcome could give Maduro another six years in power or end the self-described socialist's



This image provided by Venezuela's National Electoral Council (CNE) shows the presidential election ballot ahead of the July 28, 2024 election.

policies that once successfully boosted anti-poverty programs but whose sustained mismanagement later pushed the country into an ongoing economic crisis. Venezuela's electoral rules allow for candidates' pictures to appear on the ballots the electronic ones within Venezuela and printed for those voting abroad as many times as the number of parties that support them. This year's ballot has 38 pictures, each with every candidate's name and party underneath.

Seasoned Venezuelan voters are also used to seeing many candidates on the touchscreens used in the South American country's elections. But for some, that many photos could be confusing. "I get dizzy when I see Maduro so many times on that card, but I know that the danger is in the candidates who do not represent us," said Sonia Guevara, a 38-year-old office worker, referring to some opposition candidates who are seen close to the government.

Such an example is the case of Luis Martínez, the candidate from "Acción Democrática" Democratic Action party or AD for short a traditional opposition group whose leadership was suspended months ago by the Maduro-loyal top court. Martínez decided not to support González, the contender of the opposition's Unitary Platform coalition. "This is confusing. I have had to explain to my mother many times that the AD on the card is not the AD she always votes for," Gue-

vara said. "My mom is 71 years old, and I tell her not to vote for AD this time." González is featured three times on the ballot. Martínez, who is considered a government ally, shows up six times. The number of eligible voters ahead of this month's election is estimated to be around 17 million. Another 4 million Venezuelans living abroad are registered to vote, but only about 69,000 met the government-set requirements to cast ballots overseas. Costly and time-consuming government prerequisites to register, lack of information and a mandatory proof of legal residency in a host country kept many migrants from signing up to vote. Francisco Maldonado, a 50-year-old merchant in Caracas, is ready to vote. "At this point, I think we all know who we are going to vote for, but more than ever we have to be careful, the same care we have when we use an ATM," Maldonado said. "We cannot make a mistake when marking." Venezuela's exact population is unclear as the last census in the South American country was conducted in 2011. □

Argentina indicts 2 visiting French rugby players in a harrowing case of sexual assault

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

(AP) — Argentine prosecu-

tors on Friday charged two French rugby players with



Police escort French rugby players Oscar Jegou, left, and Hugo Auradou, right, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Thursday, July 11, 2024.

Associated Press

aggravated sexual assault, the latest development in the grisly case of a woman who said she was repeatedly raped by the athletes after they took her back to their hotel room and prevented her from leaving. The prosecutor's office in the western city of Mendoza where the alleged assault took place last Sunday following the French team's test match against the Argentine Pumas ordered the two players, Oscar Jegou and Hugo Auradou, to remain under detention until trial. After being arrested in Buenos Aires, 21-year-old Je-

gou and 20-year-old Auradou were transferred 1,000 kilometers (some 620 miles) to Mendoza on Thursday for their first court appearance. They chose not to testify in Friday's hearing. The French Rugby Federation had previously said that the players admitted to having consensual sex with the alleged victim and denied any acts of violence. The prosecutors said the court would soon decide whether to grant the defendants' request for house arrest. The account of the assault provided by Natacha Romano, the lawyer of

the victim has drawn outrage in France and caused a stir in Argentina, where recent scandals involving professional athletes have prompted questions within the greater sports community about misogyny and sexual violence. The woman says that after meeting the players at a nightclub, she was taken to their hotel room and subjected to violent, non-consensual sexual acts and prevented from leaving. After escaping the hotel room, Romano said the victim filed a police complaint and underwent physical examinations. □

Did you know about...?

The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today is proud to officially introduce a new segment called Did you know about...?, where we dive into some (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this first edition, we look back at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.

In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamentu we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is placa. Cents are called cen (pronounced: seng), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.

Outdated Aruban coins and their names

In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called Dos placa; 10-cent coins were called debchi; 25-cent coins were called diez placa and the 50-cent coin was once called Yotin (pronounced: jo-teen). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called placa too. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.

Aruban bills: their design and symbolism

The Aruban Florin collection contains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly detailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills were relatively simpler in design compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban



artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Florin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontinued.

In 2019, the Central Bank of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition of including local animals and the familiar colors on the bills. However, he included additional designs that represent the Aruban culture and link to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on the island.

Current design and symbolism 10 florin

On the 10-florin bill, you can see a Turtuga blanco (white turtle). The blue color symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the ruins of the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins, a coral motif, and the symbols of Cas Floria (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.

25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban medicinal plant called Shoshoro. The birds Trupiaal, Shoco, rock drawings, and the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also

a Purun di ceramica (clay pot), in reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.

50 florin

On this bill, we see the Cododo (blue lizard found on the ABC islands), Cangreu di tera (land crab), Willem III Tower, and again the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called Banana di rif. The colors are pink/purple.

100 florin

This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the Yuwana (Iguana), Aloe, Toteki (lizard), the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the Baile di cinta (folkloric dance with silk ribbons).

200 florin

There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the Dornasol and the Warawara—both local birds, along with the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, the Tuna cactus plant, and the Caha di orgel (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).

Extra fact:

the word “florin” supposedly is named after the Italian city of Florence or it's a reference to the Italian word “florino”, both explanations related to historical Italian currencies.□

Source: Placa, placa, placa by the National Library of Aruba



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Enjoy one of the best views on Aruba at the top of the Hooiberg Hill



(Oranjestad)—If you are a regular hiker, or maybe want to spice up your morning work out session, then you might enjoy one of the most popular climbing sites on the island: The Hooiberg Hill. Accompanied with a 600-step staircase, this hill overlooks a great part of the island, the Caribbean sea, and sometimes even the Santa Anna mountain located in the coastal state of Falcon

in Venezuela, providing one of the best views you can get on Aruba.

located at the center district of the island, Santa Cruz, the Hooiberg Hill is the second highest point on the island at 165 meters above sea level (or about 540 feet above sea level). The highest point is Jamanota Hill at 189 meters (620 feet), located in the Arikok National Park.

The staircase that run on the side of the hill was first built in 1951, when Mr. Eduardo Tromp constructed it. At that time, the staircase consisted of 900 steps. Over time, as the steps faced erosion, the government decided to renovate these stairs in 1991. This new project delivered the newer staircase with only 587 steps. However, don't be fooled—it may still

be a work out to get on top. In addition, there is now a gazebo placed halfway up the stair for a little rest. The view at this resting stop is also a sight to see.

The best time to climb the hill would be early in the morning or right before sunset, as it may not be as hot. However, the hill is of course open all day, every day. □



How Aruban beaches came to be!

(Oranjestad)—We've talked about the best beaches to visit on the island before, but have you ever wondered how Aruba got its white, sandy beaches, and why there's a clear difference between the northern and southern shores? Here are some fun facts about the development of Aruban beaches.

How did Aruba get its white, sandy beaches?

Aruba's beaches have developed over the span of thousands of years. Waves crashing on the rocky formations along our coast line (which consists mainly of coral reefs) have started to wear and tear the

reefs over time, resulting in its gradual breakdown. Fish that feed off corals also contribute to this, one small bite at a time. Over the course of thousands of years, as waves continue to crash and fish continue to eat off the corals, sand starts to accumulate around the area. However, whether the sand stays there is another question to be answered, and this is where we highlight the biggest difference between the northern and southern coast of the island.

The sand that accumulates around a torn coral reef is swept away along with the debris by the ocean

stream. However, in areas where it's shallow and the stream is weaker, the sand tends to stick to the bottom faster. This is why the beaches in the south—the areas with weaker stream and shallower ocean floors—has sand that stretches for miles. In contrast, the northern area, where the stream is much stronger and the ocean floor is much deeper, there is no sand present—they were swept away with the current!

Why north deep, but south shallow?

Ah! Good question...and interesting phrasing.



Aruba is a continental island. The island actually forms part of South America, and the space between Aruba and the South American continent is simply referred to as land that runs under the ocean. This is why it gets gradu-

ally deeper in the south, whereas the ocean floor in the north runs steeply to the bottom.

Source: archival document provided by the National Archive of Aruba (ANA). □

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Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.Forgotten gems
Open air movie theaters

(Oranjestad)—During the span of over 100 years, Aruba only saw five open air movie theatres. Now practically obsolete on the island, these theaters were once frequently visited by locals and migrants in the 20th century.

The first open air theater was constructed in 1920 and was commissioned by Shon Eduard (Eddy) de Veer. This theater was located at the Hotel Colombia in Oranjestad, which is now where the Aruban census office is located. The theater was simple; it only consisted of a screen, and visitors had to bring

their own chairs to enjoy the popular silent movies of the time.

American migrants who worked in the refinery and lived in the Lago Colony in Sero Colorado also had their piece of the pie with their Open air Theatre, which formed part of the Esso Club, also known as the Pan-Am Club. It was at this theater that "Talkies" were first streamed, movies with sound. This theater mostly streamed American blockbusters for the American expats, this way making sure that these migrant were not missing out on entertainment from their



home land.

In the 1950's and 60's, Savaneta saw their own open air theater, located in front of the Marinier's Kazerne (Marine Barracks). This theater was mostly visited by the neighboring marines, who didn't have much entertainment other than movies at that time.

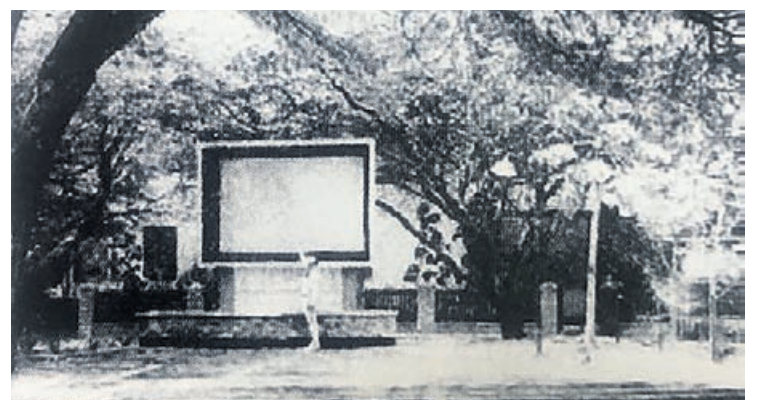
The last and most recent open air theater was constructed in the form of a drive-in theater. A popular American concept, the Drive Inn located in Balashi was a hot spot for teenagers, who had the habit of cramming all their friends in one car to go see the movies. For this phenomenon

there was a separate price that you had to pay called the "car crash".

This theater closed around 2012, but was re-opened during the pandemic in July 2020, where movies were streamed on a gigantic screen set up in front of stacked containers. However, this nostalgic form of

entertainment did not last very long as it was closed again only a year or two later. Nowadays you can still see the stacked containers when you drive near the bridge in Balashi. □

Source: "De kolibrie op de rots en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba" by Evert Bongers.



Episode 140 - Respect & Solidarity

Our goal at Etnia Nativa is to raise cultural awareness, promoting education and to safeguard our heritage as the sacred mother seed for renewal and reinvention, guiding you to become the next and a new guardian of Aruba.

A happy island needs each visitor to get involved in tourist activities where what is prioritized is respect for the natural, cultural and social environment to define and understand the values of our community. With this type of tourism there is a positive exchange of experiences between visitors and residents, establishing a fair and equitable relationship in terms of the benefits that this activity can generate.

In Aruba, more and more people are aware and concerned about environmental issues and the tourism market is also beginning to realize the negative impact on the environment generated by unsustainable tourist activities. Our society is becoming increasingly aware of the need to preserve our flora, fauna, soil and sea and heritage. In recent times, different envi-

ronmental defense groups have emerged that exert pressure on public opinion in relation to the effects of tourist activities with the sole purpose to generate revenue regardless of the environmental impact it is causing.

Our small beautiful island, like the entire planet Earth, is going through a decisive moment and our tourism in general should be governed by the principles of sustainability, in order to minimize the impact on the environment and local culture.

To achieve this and generate benefits for the local population, we need our tourism to be aware of the existing socio-political reality.

Aruba and the planet need

responsible and supportive tourism and all types of tourism should currently aspire to this responsibility and solidarity, but the current reality of tourism has little to do with these objectives we are advocating for.

Visitors are no longer satisfied with little and that makes the demand for product quality and services higher. As a consequence, it requires a greater effort to remain competitive in the market. So our officials should roll their sleeves and put heads together in order to mitigate all economic endeavors which cause negative impacts to the environment and the inhabitants of Aruba as on pristine destination.



The European Alliance for Responsible Tourism and Hospitality (EARTH) project defines Responsible Tourism as: "Any specific tourism product or tourism production system in which tourists, actors and local providers assume responsibility for host destinations from the start, involving environmental, cultural, social and economic viability point of view.

Aruba needs to raise awareness of its still unfathomable assets that could be lost without even knowing they exist. It is in the hands of its inhabitants to request legislative protection, safeguards and guaranteed protection of the existence of our ecosystem for our next generation and our future visitors.

As locals we must involve each visitor in the Aruba experience, share with them our reality and our concern.

Etnia Nativa is a small recycled building that has beautiful gardens and occupies an area of 880 m2 in Westpunt. Ten years ago it was surrounded by land of wild vegetation and inhabited by a diverse and varied fauna. Today, as a result of the excessive housing growth in the area, our home museum and sanctuary houses different species in danger of extinction as a natural sanctuary for: hummingbirds, doves, chuchubi; trupial; pecho gel, bats, lizards, totekis, geckos, crabs, beetles, mantis,

santaneros, spiders. They are our daily dwellers and endemic fauna, even the invasive boa and the cane toad are casual visitors we wish no to see. On picture below, is our dreaded centipede who loves to scavenge and wander around for small insects, frogs and small rodents that lives under rocks boulders that are part of our garden. however we must be vigilant since occasionally we must prevent them going inside. We catch them on a shovel or in a carton box and transport them to safer place.

In our gallery art we also display historical as well as native Aruban art and artifacts. Follow our guided tours conducted by its founder and curator, incorporating works of art, archaeological objects, tools and weapons to tell the story of Aruba. Discover nature and island culture, through an educational and mind-opening session for the curious and bohemian soul, the adventurous spirit and those interested in acquiring island knowledge. Interact and get infected with a good predisposition to share our concern for preserving your fragile travel destination.

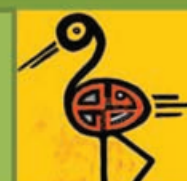
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Article by: Etnia Nativa

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Aruba: the legend behind its name

(Oranjestad)—Most folkloric tales and legends in Aruba revolve around our indigenous ancestors, who came from mainland Venezuela, and discovered the island and made it into their new home. This particular legend tells the story of the birth of the Aruba name.

The legend follows the life of Arua, an indigenous Cacique originally from Aroa in the Falcon state in Venezuela in the year 50 AD. Arua had a son around the year 70 AD with his wife Shira, who they named Corobori. When Corobori was old enough, he joined his father on the usual boat trip to the islands of Curacao and Bonaire to gather salt.

On their way back to Mainland Venezuela, they were caught up in a heavy rain storm—a side effect from a passing, but far away, hurricane. Of course, because of the lack of motors and sail, their boat was left in the mercy of the heavy winds. After a while, the storm started to pass, and the clouds began to clear up. Finally able to see around them, the Cacique spotted land approximately an hour away. So, they started to row in that direction until they reached the coast.

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezuela, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak. The next morning, the Cacique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find any sign of population in the area: "Corobori," Arua said. "Don't come back without news. It's in your hands how long we stay here till we find our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you."

"Don't worry," Corobori replied. "As soon as we have any information, we will let you know." Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a village. They crossed different dry riverbeds, but no sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which today we call Hooiberg.

The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him the news: "Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curacao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big mountains of our homeland Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that's not all. When the sun came up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt."

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his son's findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-discovered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settlement, now known as Santo Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked along the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded their kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the island, generations of families living along the coast. Corobori was the first indigenous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety of the island.

Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: "My children, many years have passed, and I've asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation."

And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

And that is the tale of what inspired the Aruba name. In the generations that lived or travelled back and forth to the island, there were many familiar names*, like Guadiriki, a warrior who was there when the island got discovered and his son, whom he called Huliba; Corobori and his children, Corodori, Camacuri and Turibana, Masiduri; and Malmok, the 13-year-old boy who alerted the Cacique when the Caribes attacked.

Familiar names: all these names are familiar to Arubans, as these are the names of places and plants on the island.

Source: Un storia di e Indjan Arua (A story of the Indian Arua) by Adolf (Dufi) Kock



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 39 Binary

1 Really like digit
7 Horn 40 Beliefs
sound

DOWN
11 Sitka's state
12 Trade show
13 Elect ceremony
14 Basic idea
15 Foils' kin
16 "I under-stand!"
17 Hot
18 A waste of time
19 Theater award
21 Negative link
22 Two-bar symbol
25 Letter before
upsilon
26 Musical symbol
27 Stands
29 Striker's foe
33 Run, as color
34 Stable animal
35 Learning method
36 Exotic fruit
37 "Yeah, sure!"
38 Late hour

A	B	H	O	R		L	E	H	A	R
R	E	E	S	E		O	R	A	T	E
C	L	A	S	S		C	A	L	E	B
A	I	R		T	S	A		E	A	U
N	E	T		O	I	L		A	S	K
A	S	H	O	R	E		K	N	E	E
		A	L	E	R	T	E	D		
R	I	N	D		R	I	G	H	T	S
E	N	D		S	A	N		E	E	L
B	A	H		P	S	Y		A	N	Y
E	R	O	D	E		T	E	R	S	E
L	U	M	E	N		O	A	T	E	S
S	T	E	E	D		T	R	Y	S	T

Yesterday's answer

10 Peter Rabbit's creator
16 Shot in the dark
18 Does clerical work
20 Revealed
22 Ring setting
23 More hushed
24 Reply to a knock
25 Iranian city
28 Handle badly
30 Want puppy
31 So far
32 Chili need
34 Robust
36 Parrot or

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11							12			
13							14			
15						16				
17						18				
			19	20					21	
	22	23					24			
25				26						
27			28				29	30	31	32
33						34				
35						36				
37						38				
39						40				

4-20

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-20

CRYPTOQUOTE

LYNTOZ HF LJN Y XEYBZ

NJ SHFHN. HN HF MJPZ.

— UYOK FLKRZO

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: AND THE DAY CAME WHEN THE RISK TO REMAIN TIGHT IN A BUD WAS MORE PAINFUL THAN THE RISK IT TOOK TO BLOSSOM. — ANAIS NIN

Cruise ship Schedule: July 01 - July 30 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
THU	04	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	09	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	08.00	20.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1
WED	10	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	16	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	I	1
WED	17	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	23	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	30	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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U.S. signs agreement with 3 social media giants aimed at preventing distribution of synthetic drugs



Linda Thomas-Greenfield, United States Ambassador to the United Nations, speaks after a meeting of the United Nations Security Council Thursday, Aug. 24, 2023, at United Nations headquarters.

Associated Press

By **JADE LOZADA**
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United States signed a memorandum with several of the world's biggest social media companies on Thursday aimed at preventing the use of their platforms for the distribution of synthetic drugs. U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield told a signing ceremony that "technology companies have a critical role to play in both stopping the illegal manufacturing, trafficking and marketing of synthetic drugs, and just as importantly, educating the public."

The Alliance to Prevent Drug Harms is a joint effort

of the U.S. Mission to the United Nations and Meta which owns Facebook and WhatsApp, X and Snap Inc., the owner of the photo sharing app Snapchat. The U.S. Mission said the signing parties will collaborate to "disrupt" illegal drug activities online and "amplify public awareness of the dangers of synthetic drug misuse."

Thomas-Greenfield said at the ceremony at the U.S. Mission that synthetic drug use is an "international crisis" that "no one government and no one sector can tackle alone."

"These criminals have adeptly used online platforms, social media, e-commerce, search en-

gines and messaging apps to coordinate their illicit activities," she said.

Neither Thomas-Greenfield nor the social media representatives elaborated on the specific actions they will take to reduce online synthetic drug distribution as part of the Prevent Alliance, though Snap global platform safety chief Jacqueline Beauchere detailed the company's existing efforts.

Beauchere said Snap which reaches 90% of 13-

to 24-year-olds in the United States has sought to make its platform a "hostile environment" for drug distributors by using technology that can "proactively detect illicit drug content," making referrals to law enforcement, and "raising awareness" of the risks of drug use with users in the app. □

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Data of nearly all AT&T customers downloaded to a third-party platform in security breach

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN
AP Business Writer

The data of nearly all customers of the telecommunications giant AT&T was downloaded to a third-party platform in a security breach, the company said Friday, as cyberattacks against businesses, schools and health systems continue to spread globally.

The breach, most of which took place over five months in 2022, hit customers of AT&T's cellular customers, customers of mobile virtual network operators using AT&T's wireless network, as well as its landline customers who interacted with those cellular numbers.

Approximately 109 million customer accounts were impacted, according to AT&T, which said that it currently doesn't believe that the data is publicly available.

"The data does not contain the content of calls or texts, personal information such as Social Security numbers, dates of birth, or other personally identifiable information," AT&T said Friday.

The compromised data also doesn't include some information typically seen in usage details, such as the time stamp of calls or texts, the company said, or customer names. AT&T, however, said that there are often ways using publicly available online tools



The AT&T logo is positioned above one of its retail stores in New York, Oct. 24, 2016.

Associated Press

to find the name associated with a specific telephone number.

Cyber security experts concurred, saying that such data can be used to trace users. "While the information that was exposed doesn't directly have sensitive information, it can be used to piece together events and who may be calling who. This could impact people's private lives as private calls and connections could be exposed," Thomas Richards, principal consultant at Synopsys Software Integrity Group, said in an emailed statement. "The business phone num-

bers will be easy to identify and private numbers can be matched to names with public record searches."

An internal investigation determined that compromised data includes AT&T records of calls and texts between May 1, 2022 and Oct. 31, 2022.

AT&T identified the third-party platform as Snowflake and said that the incident was limited to an AT&T workspace on that cloud company's platform and did not impact its network. Cyber security experts say the sheer volume of data held by companies on cloud platforms can create

its own perils.

"The AT&T data breach underscores the growing risks associated with the vast amounts of data companies now store on cloud and SaaS platforms," said Roei Sherman, Field Chief Technology Officer at Mitiga, a threat detection and investigation company that focuses on cloud technology. "As organizations increasingly rely on these technologies, the complexity of detecting and investigating breaches has risen sharply." AT&T's investigation is ongoing and it has engaged with cybersecurity experts to understand

the nature and scope of the criminal breach. At least one person has been apprehended so far, according to the company.

Compromised data also includes records from Jan. 2, 2023, for a very small number of customers. The records identify the telephone numbers an AT&T or MVNO cellular number interacted with during these periods. For a subset of records, one or more cell site identification number(s) associated with the interactions are also included.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation said that it has worked collaboratively with AT&T and the Justice Department "through the first and second delay process, all while sharing key threat intelligence to bolster FBI investigative equities and to assist AT&T's incident response work."

The Department of Justice said Friday that it became aware of the breach early this year, but that it met the security standard for a delayed filing by AT&T with the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission, a filing that was made public Friday.

The DOJ said an earlier disclosure of the breach would "pose a substantial risk to national security and public safety."

The Federal Communications Commission is also investigating. □

The Beastie Boys sue Chili's parent company over alleged misuse of 'Sabotage' song in ad



The Beastie Boys, from left, Adam Yauch, Mike Diamond, and Adam Horovitz arrive at an interview panel during the SXSW Music Festival and Conference in Austin, Texas, Wednesday, March 15, 2006.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The Beastie Boys are suing the parent company of Chili's in a case that accuses the chain restaurant of running an advertisement that used the hip-hop trio's smash hit "Sabotage" without permission.

The rap group, in a federal case filed Wednesday in New York, alleged Brinker International created a Chili's ad that used significant portions of "Sabotage" and ripped off the song's music video.

Brinker International did not immediately return an email seeking comment. The court filings did not list an attorney for Brinker.

Debuting in 1994, "Sabotage" became a huge hit for The Beastie Boys, and its accompanying music video, where the group's three members donned wigs, fake mustaches and sunglasses in a parody of 1970s crime television shows, is one of the most recognizable in the genre.

The lawsuit accused Brinker of creating a Chili's social media ad in 2022 that used parts of the song alongside a video of three people wearing 1970's-style disguises stealing ingredients from a Chili's restaurant.

The case was filed by surviving Beastie Boys members Adam Horovitz and Michael Diamond, along with the executor of the estate of Adam Yauch, a band member who died of cancer in 2012. Yauch, in his will, specifically barred the use of his music in advertisements. □

Cleveland has top MLB draft pick, with Georgia's Condon and Oregon State's Bazzana top prospects

By RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Charlie Condon, a walk-on at Georgia who became national player of the year, and Travis Bazzana, a former cricket player who left Australia for Oregon State, could be the top two picks in baseball's amateur draft on Sunday night.

Cleveland has the top choice for the first time after winning the draft lottery in December and Cincinnati selects second.

"The general consensus is that it's probably close to an average draft year," Philadelphia Phillies assistant general manager of amateur scouting Brian Barber said. "I don't think it's a secret, you're going to see the top half of the draft dominated by college position players."

Condon, a 6-foot-6 third baseman and outfielder, led the NCAA this year with a .433 average and 37 homers. The 21-year-old homered in eight straight games from April 26 to May



Georgia's Charlie Condon hits the ball during an NCAA regional baseball game against Army on May 31, 2024 in Athens, Ga.

9, one shy of the NCAA record, and won the Golden Spikes Award.

Bazzana, a 21-year-old second baseman, batted .407 with 28 homers and 66 RBIs. While most draft picks spend years in the minors, there are exceptions. Third baseman Nolan Schanuel made his major league de-

but last Aug. 18, 40 days after the Los Angeles Angels drafted him 11th overall, and Texas outfielder Wyatt Langford was on this year's opening-day roster.

Top pick Paul Skenes made his debut for Pittsburgh on May 11 and is 6-0 with a 1.90 ERA in 11 starts. He is set to start Tuesday night's

All-Star Game with the fewest big league appearances for an All-Star.

Players who reside in the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico are subject to the draft. Those with remaining college eligibility may sign until Aug. 1 at 5 p.m. EDT, with the remainder having until a week before the

2025 draft.

Skenes agreed to a \$9.2 million bonus last summer, the highest since players were limited to initial minor league contracts as part of the draft pools system started in 2012. Under the prior rules, Washington signed pitcher Stephen Strasburg to a \$15.1 million, four-year contract in 2009 and Bryce Harper to a \$9.9 million, five-year deal the following summer.

"When you look and see what today's elite high school and college players are making, they're still making far less than that, and yet the valuations of franchise appreciation since have doubled if not quadrupled," said Scott Boras, the agent for Strasburg and Harper.

Only one player chosen in the first 10 rounds failed to reach an agreement last year: UC Irvine outfielder Caden Kendle returned for his senior year after he was selected by St. Louis in the 10th round with the 305th pick. □

Associated Press

Philipsen wins Stage 13 of Tour de France in sprint finish

PAU, France (AP) — Jasper Philipsen won the 13th stage of the Tour de France in a sprint finish and two-time champion Tadej Pogacar kept the yellow jersey on Friday.

Several riders fell in a crash a few hundred meters from the line but Pogacar, who was just ahead, avoided it. Philipsen held off Belgian countryman Wout van Aert and German rider Pascal Ackermann after 3 1/2 hours to clinch his second stage win this month, eighth overall on the Tour, and 11th on major races. He also owns three stage wins on the Spanish Vuelta. "We pushed hard from the start and we never slowed down.

The crosswinds livened up the entire stage," Philipsen said. "I had my best feelings since the start of the Tour."

Pogacar placed ninth in the stage and still leads by 1 minute, 6 seconds from Remco Evenepoel of Belgium and by 1:14 from two-time defending champion Jonas Vingegaard of Denmark.

The flat trek gave sprinters valuable points in the green jersey contest, taking the peloton on a 165-kilometer (103-mile) route from Agen to the southwestern city of Pau on the Pyrenees mountains' northern edge. Biniam Girmay of Eritrea, who has won three stages so far, placed fourth and kept the green jersey.

Primož Roglic, the 2020 runner-up to his Slovenian countryman Pogacar, withdrew ahead of the stage a day after a crash.

As riders prepared to start Friday's stage, one fan held up a sign with "Allez Pogacar!" written on it, a play on

words with the city of Pau and Pogacar.

A four-rider breakaway consisting of Julien Bernard, Romain Gregoire, Michal Kwiatkowski and Magnus Cort snaked through rolling countryside before being caught some 50 kilometers (31 miles) from the end.

Two minor climbs up Côte de Blachon and Côte de Simacourbe soon followed. Richard Carapaz of Ecuador and Tobias Johannesen of Norway attacked on the second one but were reeled in with 21 kilometers (13 miles) left.

The tempo was high throughout and Pogacar was surprisingly near the front of the peloton, putting himself at needless risk of potentially being caught in the crash which sent at least four riders flying into the crash barriers.

"I was expecting the stage



Belgium's Jasper Philipsen celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the thirteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 165.3 kilometers (102.7 miles) with start in Agen and finish Pau, France, Friday, July 12, 2024.

Associated Press

to heat up but it turned out to be chaotic from the start," Pogacar said. "I was not planning to contest the sprint, and when I saw how dangerous it was becoming I just took it easy to the line."

Saturday's 14th stage starts from Pau and hits the mountains, where two huge climbs await on a 152-kilometer (99-mile) slog

to Saint-Lary-Soulan Pla d'Adet.

Riders tackle a 19-kilometer (12-mile) grind up the Col du Tourmalet, one of the race's most famed Pyrenean climbs, and the stage finishes with a shorter but steeper climb.

Pogacar will doubtless seek to attack Vingegaard, who just beat him to win Stage 11 on Wednesday. □

Carlos Alcaraz and Novak Djokovic will meet in the Wimbledon men's final again

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**

AP Tennis Writer

LONDON (AP) — Carlos Alcaraz is only a couple of months past his 21th birthday, and yet this whole Grand Slam success thing is already a bit been-there, done-that for him. Moving a step closer to a second consecutive Wimbledon trophy and fourth major championship overall, Alcaraz overcame a shaky start Friday to beat Daniil Medvedev 6-7 (1), 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 in the semifinals at Centre Court.

"I feel like I'm not new anymore. I feel like I know how I'm going to feel before the final. I've been in this position before," Alcaraz said. "I will try to do the things that I did well last year and try to be better."

Like last year, his opponent in Sunday's title match will be Novak Djokovic, who advanced with a 6-4, 7-6 (2), 6-4 victory against No. 25 seed Lorenzo Musetti. Djokovic won 15 of 16 points when he went to the net in the first set and finished 43 for 56 in that category.

It'll be the first time the same two men meet in consecutive Wimbledon finals since Djokovic beat Roger Federer in 2014 and 2015.

"He's as complete a player as they come," Djokovic said about Alcaraz, who won the 2023 final in five sets. "It's go-



Carlos Alcaraz of Spain plays a forehand return to Daniil Medvedev of Russia during their semifinal match at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Friday, July 12, 2024.

Associated Press

ing to take the best of my abilities on the court overall to beat him."

Djokovic, who hadn't reached a final at any tournament all season and needed surgery in his right knee, will be vying for his eighth championship at the All England Club. That would tie Federer's mark for the most by a man and put him one behind Martina Navratilova's record of nine while making the 37-year-old from Serbia the first player in tennis history with a career total of 25 Grand Slam titles.

"I know what I have to do," Alcaraz said. "I'm sure he knows what he has to do to beat me."

Late in Djokovic's semifinal, as he let his first three match points slip away, fans hoping for a longer match began chanting "Lo-ren-zo!" One yelled out during a point, bothering Djokovic, who soon was wiping away fake tears mockingly after Musetti failed to convert a break chance in the last game.

The No. 2-seeded Djokovic eventually worked his way into his 10th final at Wimbledon

and 37th at a major.

"I don't want to stop here," Djokovic said. "Hopefully I'll get my hands on that trophy." After a so-so opening set against Medvedev, Alcaraz transformed back into the energetic, attacking, crowd-pleasing force who already was the first teenager to be No. 1 in the ATP rankings and is the youngest man to have won a major trophy on three surfaces: grass, clay and hard courts.

Now the Spaniard is one victory away from joining Boris Becker and Bjorn Borg as the

only men in the Open era, which began in 1968, with multiple championships at the All England Club before turning 22.

Alcaraz also triumphed at the U.S. Open in 2022 and the French Open last month and is 3-0 in major finals.

"We're going to see a lot of him in the future, no doubt," Djokovic said. "He's going to win many more Grand Slams." On a cloudy afternoon, the No. 3-seeded Alcaraz went through some ups and downs against No. 5 Medvedev, a 28-year-old from Russia.

"I started really, really nervous," Alcaraz said. "He was dominating the match."

Indeed, Medvedev grabbed an early 5-2 lead, but then got into trouble with his play and his temper.

Alcaraz broke to get within 5-4 with a drop shot that chair umpire Eva Asderaki ruled — correctly, according to TV replays — bounced twice before Medvedev got his racket on the ball. He voiced his displeasure, and Asderaki, after climbing down from her seat to huddle with tournament referee Denise Parnell during the ensuing changeover, issued a warning to Medvedev for unsportsmanlike conduct. "I said something in Russian. Not unpleasant, but not over the line," Medvedev said at his news conference. □

Pittsburgh's Paul Skenes to start All-Star Game for NL after just 11 major league starts



Pittsburgh Pirates pitcher Paul Skenes throws during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Milwaukee Brewers, Thursday, July 11, 2024, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Pittsburgh's Paul Skenes will start the All-Star Game for the National League on Tuesday night, becoming the fifth rookie pitcher given the honor.

Arizona manager Torey Lovullo, who will lead the NL team, made the announcement Friday on the SiriusXM MLB Network Radio.

"It's such a well-deserved honor for him," Lovullo said. A 21-year-old right-hander, Skenes was selected by Pittsburgh with the top pick in last year's amateur draft. He made his major league debut on May 11 and is 6-0 with a 1.90 ERA in 11 starts,

striking out 89 and walking 13 in 66 1/3 innings. Skenes has thrown 75 pitches of 100 mph or more and his 99.1 mph average four-seam fastball velocity tops the major leagues among those with 1,000 or more pitches.

He pitched seven no-hit innings at Milwaukee on Thursday and was removed after 99 pitches.

"A few really, really good candidates dropped off due to injury or the fact they were pitching on Sunday," Lovullo said.

"The answer just became more and more clear. And then certainly what Paul did yesterday, really, re-

ally hammered down the thought that he should be the guy."

Dave Stenhouse (1962), Mark Fidrych (1976), Fernando Valenzuela (1976) and Hideo Nomo (1995) are the other rookies to start an All-Star game, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. Skenes' 11 career major league games will be the fewest for a player appearing in an All-Star Game, according to Elias. Fidrych and Nomo each had 13. Skenes will be Pittsburgh's first pitcher to start an All-Star Game since 1975, when Jerry Reuss pitched three scoreless innings. □